



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 BLOSSOM AVENUE, SUITE 1200

DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-3233

CHECKLIST FOR THE CONTENTS OF AN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

EIS Title: _____

Responsible Agency: _____ Date Received: _____

COMDATE No: _____ Due Date: _____

Date of EIS: _____ Reviewer: _____

Draft _____ Revised Draft _____ Supplement to Draft _____

Final _____ Supplement to Final _____ Other _____

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HOW TO READ AN EIS

An EIS asks and answers 6 questions:

1. WHAT ACTIONS ARE PROPOSED? The answer is in the "Alternatives including the proposed action" section of the EIS. One alternative may be called the proposed action or "preferred" alternative. Or there may be a range of alternatives with none preferred over the others. The environmental impacts of the proposed action are described in the same section and in the "Environmental consequences" section.
2. WHY IS ACTION PROPOSED? The answer is in the "Purpose and Need" section of the EIS. This is the problem or the opportunity to which the agency is responding. This could be called the "What's missing, what's broken" section.
3. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF NO ACTION WERE TAKEN? The answer is the "no action" alternative in the "Alternatives including the proposed action section." This alternative describes the problem or opportunity without any new action being taken.
4. IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT WAS EXPECTED OF THE PROPOSED ACTION? These are the "other reasonable courses of action" in the "Alternatives including the proposed action" section of the EIS. All reasonable alternatives that would meet the underlying need are presented here in at least some level of detail. The environmental impacts of the alternatives are described in the same section and in the "Environmental consequences" section.
5. IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT WAS EXPECTED WITH LESS ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT? These are the "mitigation measures" in the "Alternatives including the proposed action" section of the EIS. All reasonable ways to avoid, minimize, rectify, restore, reduce, and compensate adverse environmental effects are in this section.
6. WHAT FACTORS WILL BE USED WHEN DECIDING BETWEEN ALTERNATIVES? These are the "purposes" in the "Purposes and needs" section of the EIS. These are the goals the agency wishes to achieve while meeting the underlying need. There are almost always 3 major kinds of purposes, or decision factors: economics, engineering, and environment.

Very specific comments do the most good. Please give chapter and page references to the EIS. Constructive suggestions are the most useful--tell us exactly what it is that you want us to do. Thank you!

THE PHYSICAL DOCUMENT

1. Format in general. 1502.10; 1500.4(e)

1.1 Does the EIS follow the standard EIS format:

- (a) Cover sheet? 1502.10(a)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (b) Summary? 1502.10(b)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (c) Table of contents?
yes/no page(s)_____
- (d) Purpose of and need for action? 1502.10(d)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (e) Alternatives including the proposed action?
1502.10(e)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (f) Affected environment? 1502.10(f)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (g) Environmental consequences? 1502.10(g)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (h) List of preparers? 1502.10(h)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (i) List of agencies, organizations, and persons to whom
copies of the statement are sent? 1502.10(i)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (j) Index? 1502.10(j)yes/no page(s)_____
- (k) Appendices, if any? 1502.10(k)
yes/no page(s)_____

1.2 Are these sections in the order given? 1502.10
yes/no page(s)_____1.3 Are these the only sections (i.e., Does the EIS have no
sections in addition to those of the standard format)
1502.10

yes/no page(s)_____

2. Nonstandard format. If none of the answers to the questions in part 1 above were "no", the format is okay and the reviewer should skip this part and go to part 3. If any answer is "no", answer the questions in this part.

2.1 Does the EIS state a compelling reason for not following the standard EIS format? 1502.10
yes/no page(s)_____

2.2 Does the nonstandard format encourage (i) good analysis and (ii) clear presentation of the alternatives including the proposed action? 1502.10; 1500.4(e)
yes/no page(s)_____

2.3 Does the nonstandard format include the sections required by 1502.10(a), (b), (c), (h), (i) and (j), and the substance of 1502.10(d), (e), (f), (g) and (k)? 1501.10
yes/no page(s)_____

3. Length.

3.1 Is the text of the EIS (the sections required by 1502.10(d), (e), (f), and (g), less than 150 pages? 1502.7
yes/no page(s)_____

3.2 If the text of the EIS exceed 150 pages, are the reasons given why this EIS is of unusual scope or complexity? 1502.7
yes/no page(s)_____

3.3 Is the text of the EIS less than 300 pages?
yes/no page(s)_____

3.4 If the EIS is unusually long (usually meaning 150 to 300 pages), does the EIS explain that the summary will be circulated instead of the entire EIS? 1500.4(h)
yes/no page(s)_____

3.5 Is the EIS no longer than the page limits set during the scoping process? 1501.7(b)(1)
yes/no page(s)_____

3.6 Subjective length standards. Is the EIS

(a) Concise? 1502(2)(c); 1502.1
yes/no page(s)_____

(b) No longer than absolutely necessary to comply with
NEPA and the CEQ's regulations? 1502.2(c); 1500.4(a)
yes/no page(s)_____

(c) In proportionate length to (i) potential
environmental problems and (ii) project size?
1502.2(c)
yes/no page(s)_____

PART B. COMPONENTS OF THE EIS

1. Cover sheet.

1.1 Does the cover sheet include:

- (a) A list of the responsible agencies including the lead
agency and any cooperating agencies? 1502.11(a)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (b) The title of the proposed action? 1502.11(b)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (c) The titles of related cooperating agency actions, if
appropriate? 1502.11(b)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (d) The names of the State(s) and county(ies) (or other
jurisdiction, if applicable) where the actions are
located? 1502.11(b)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (e) The name, address, and telephone number of the person
at the agency who can supply further information?
1502.11(c)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (f) A designation of the statement as a draft, final, or
draft or final supplement? 1502.11(d)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (g) A one-paragraph abstract of the statement?
1502.11(d)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (h) The date by which comments must be received?
1502.11(f)
yes/no page(s)_____

2. Summary

2.1 Does the summary stress

(a) The major conclusions in the EIS? 1502.12
yes/no page(s)_____

(b) Areas of controversy (including issues raised by
agencies and the public)? 1502.12
yes/no page(s)_____

(c) Issues to be resolved (including the choice among
alternatives)? 1502.12
yes/no page(s)_____

2.2 Does the summary (i) adequately and (ii) accurately
summarize the statement (i.e., Could the summary stand on
its own if it were circulated without the rest of the
statement)? 1502.12;
yes/no page(s)_____

2.3 Is the summary 15 pages or less? 1502.12
yes/no page(s)_____

3. Table of contents.

3.1 Is the table of contents accurate? 1502.10(c)
yes/no page(s)_____

4. Purpose of and need for action.

4.1 Does the statement specify the underlying need to which
the agency is responding in proposing the alternatives
including the proposed action ("need" is defined as (i)
the lack of something requisite, desirable, or useful, or
(ii) a condition requiring supply or relief)? 1502.13
yes/no page(s)_____

4.2 Does the statement specify the underlying purposes to
which the agency is responding in proposing the
alternatives including the proposed action ("purpose" is
defined as (i) a goal or (ii) an end to be attained)?
1502.13
yes/no page(s)_____

5. Alternatives including the proposed action.

5.1 Does this section of the EIS include

- (a) All reasonable alternatives? 1502.14(a)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (b) Reasons why alternatives which were eliminated from
detailed study were eliminated? 1502.14(a)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (c) Reasonable alternatives not within the jurisdiction of the
lead agency? 1502.14(c)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (d) The "no action" alternative (defined as "not meeting the
need")? 1502.14(d)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (e) A statement on whether one or more alternative(s) is the
agency's preferred alternative(s)? 1502.14(e)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (f) If the agency has a preferred alternative, identification
of that alternative? 1502.14(e)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (g) Appropriate mitigation measures not already included in
the proposed action or alternatives? 1502.14(f)
yes/no page(s)_____

5.2 Is the material presented in this section based on the
information and analysis presented in (i) the Affected
Environment section and (ii) the Environmental Consequences
section? 1502.14

yes/no page(s)_____

5.3 Subjective standards. Does this section of the EIS:

- (a) Present the environmental impacts of the proposal and the
alternative in comparative form? 1502.14
yes/no page(s)_____
- (b) Sharply define the issues and provide a clear basis for
choice among options? 1502.14
yes/no page(s)_____
- (c) Rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable
alternatives? 1502.14(a)
yes/no page(s)_____

6. Affected environment.

- 6.1 Does this section of the EIS describe the environment of the areas to be affected or created by the alternatives under consideration? 1502.15
yes/no page(s)_____
- 6.2 Subjective standards. Is this section:
- (a) No longer than necessary to understand the effects of the alternatives? 1502.15
yes/no page(s)_____
- (b) Written to a level of detail commensurate with the importance of the impact, with less important material summarized, consolidated, or simply references? 1502.15
yes/no page(s)_____
- (c) Succinct? 1502.5
yes/no page(s)_____
7. Environmental consequences. This first set of questions in this part derives from section 1502.16 of the CEQ's regulations.
- 7.1 Does this section of the EIS consolidate the discussions required by NEPA Sections 102(2)(C)(i), (ii), (iv), and (v), specifically (see also 1502.10(g),
- (a) The environmental impacts of the alternatives including the proposed action? 1502.16; NEPA 102(2)(C)(i)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (b) Any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented? 1502.16;
yes/no page(s)_____
- (c) The relationship between short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity? 1502.16; NEPA 102(2)(C)(iv)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (d) Any (i) irreversible or (ii) irretrievable commitment of resources which would be involved in the proposal should it be implemented? 1502.16; NEPA Section 102(2)(C)(v)
yes/no page(s)_____
- 7.2 Does this section of the EIS include discussions of
- (a) Direct effects and their significance? 1502.16(a)

yes/no page(s)_____

(b) Indirect effects and their significance? 1502.16(b)
yes/no page(s)_____

(c) The environmental effects of alternatives including the
proposed action? 1502.16(d)
yes/no page(s)_____

(d) Urban quality? 1502.16(g)
yes/no/na page(s)_____

(e) Historic and cultural resources (apart from National
Register and eligible properties)? 1502.16(g)
yes/no page(s)_____

(f) Means to mitigate adverse environmental impacts if not
fully covered under the "alternatives including the
proposed action" section? 1502.16(h)
yes/no page(s)_____

7.3 Does this section of the EIS include discussion of possible
conflicts between the proposed action and the objectives of (i)
Federal and (ii) (in the case of a reservation) Indian tribe
land-use plans, policies and controls for the area concerned?
1502.16(c)
yes/no page(s)_____

7.4 Does this section of the EIS state how alternatives considered
in it and decisions based on it will or will not achieve the
requirements of sections 101 and 102(1) of NEPA and other
environmental laws and policies? 1502.1(d)
yes/no page(s)_____

This next set of questions in this part derives environmental
statutes and regulations apart from NEPA and the CEQ regulations.
The basis for these questions is (1) 1502.2(c), 1500.4(k), and
1500.5(g), which require that environmental review laws and executive
orders be integrated with EISs to the fullest extent possible; (2)
1508.27, which lists most environmental statutes and regulations as
relevant to the determination of "significance"; 3) 1502.16(a) and
(b), which require that environmental effects "and their
significance" be included in this section of an EIS; and (4)
1502.2(e), which requires that an EIS state how the alternatives
achieve the requirements of environmental laws and policies.

7.5 Endangered Species Act. Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action;

(a) May affect a listed endangered or threatened species?
ESA 7(a)(2) yes/no page(s)_____

(b) May adversely modify a critical habitat? ESA 7(a)(2)
yes/no page(s)_____

(c) May result in construction and/or a construction contract?
ESA 7(c) yes/no page(s)_____

Heritage conservation

7.6 Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives (including the proposed action) may have an effect on

(a) Access to religious sites or ceremonial rites of the Native American?
yes/no page(s)_____

(b) A property listed on the National Register of Historic Places?
yes/no page(s)_____

(c) A property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?
yes/no page(s)_____

(d) A property listed on the National Registry of Natural Landmarks?
yes/no page(s)_____

(e) A property listed as a National Historic Landmark?
yes/no page(s)_____

(f) A property listed on the World Heritage List?
yes/no page(s)_____

7.7 Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action may include the excavation, removal, damage, alteration, or defacing of any archeological resource located on public lands or on Indian lands or on lands the fee title to which is held by the United States? 1502.25(b)
yes/no page(s)_____

State and local program consistency

- 7.8 If the alternatives including the proposed action include (i) direct Federal development, or (ii) Federal assistance, Federal financial assistance, or a Federal assistance program, does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives are consistent to the maximum extent feasible with State, areawide, and local plans and program? 1502.16(c); 1506.2(c)
yes/no page(s)_____
- 7.9 If the alternatives including the proposed action are not consistent or compatible with State, areawide, and local plans and programs, does this section of the EIS explain any necessary inconsistency or incompatibility? 1506.2(d)
yes/no page(s)_____

Coastal management program consistency

- 7.10 If the alternatives including the proposed action include (i) a development project, or (ii) an activity, does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives
- (a) Directly affect the coastal zone?
yes/no page(s)_____
 - (b) Are listed in an approved coastal management program as requiring a consistency determination?
yes/no page(s)_____
 - (c) Have been monitored by a State as requiring a consistency determination?
yes/no page(s)_____
 - (d) Are the same as or similar to development projects and activities for which a consistency determination has been prepared in the past?
yes/no page(s)_____
 - (e) Were already subject to a "thorough consistency assessment"?
yes/no page(s)_____
- 7.11 If the alternatives including the proposal include a development project, does this section of the EIS state whether the development project is "in the coastal zone"?

7.12 Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action require (i) a consistency determination, or (ii) a negative determination?

yes/no page(s)_____

Floodplains and wetlands NOTE: For purposes of the next two questions, the term "action" is defined as acquiring, managing, or disposing of federal lands and facilities; Federally undertaken, financed, or assisted construction and improvements; and Federal activities and programs affecting land use.

7.13 Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action take place in or have an effect on a floodplain?

yes/no page(s)_____

7.14 Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action take place in a wetland?

yes/no page(s)_____

7.15 Farmlands. Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action include actions which convert farmlands to other uses?

yes/no page(s)_____

7.16 Recreation resources. Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action

(a) May adversely affect the values for which a component of the National wild and scenic Rivers System was established?

yes/no page(s)_____

(b) Are incompatible with the nature or purposes of a part of the National Trails System?

yes/no page(s)_____

(c) Affect Forest Service or BLM wilderness areas?

yes/no page(s)_____

(d) Affect parks, parklands, ecologically critical areas, or other areas of ecological, recreational, scenic, or esthetic importance?

yes/no page(s)_____

Permits

7.17 Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action include

(a) A structure or work in, under, or over a navigable water of the United States?

yes/no page(s)_____

(b) A structure or work affecting a navigable water of the United states (a transmission line under or over a navigable water of the United States is considered to be a structure having an impact on the navigability of such a water)?

yes/no page(s)_____

(c) The deposit of fill material or an excavation that in any manner alters or modifies the course, location, condition, or capacity of a navigable water of the United States?

yes/no page(s)_____

7.18 Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action require a Rivers and arbors Appropriation (Refuse) Act Section 10 permit? 1502.25(b)

yes/no page(s)_____

7.19 Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action include the discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the United States?

yes/no page(s)_____

7.20 Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action require a Federal Water Pollution Control (Clean Water) Act section 404 permit? 1502.25(b)

yes/no page(s)_____

7.21 Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action include a right-of-way on public land (NPS, FS, BLM, or FWS)?

yes/no page(s)_____

7.22 Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action require a Federal land management agency right-of-way permit? 1502.25(b)

yes/no page(s)_____

7.23 Urban policy. Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action include a major policy or program initiative (new or changed program or policy, not an individual project), affecting cities, counties, and other communities?

yes/no page(s)_____

Pollution control

7.24 Air.

Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action

- (a) Are affected by National Ambient air quality Standards (primary and secondary)?

yes/no page(s)_____

- (b) Conform to EPA-approved State Implementation Plans?

yes/no page(s)_____

- (c) Are affected by new Source Performance Standards?

yes/no page(s)_____

- (d) Are affected by the Class I designation of any area?

yes/no page(s)_____

- (e) Are affected by National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants?

yes/no page(s)_____

- (f) Are affected by emission limitations in any Air Quality Control Region?

yes/no page(s)_____

7.25 Water.

Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action

- (a) Include nontransportation-related facilities which due to their location could reasonably be expected to spill oil into or upon the navigable waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines?

yes/no page(s)_____

- (b) Are affected by effluent guidelines and standards?

yes/no page(s)_____

- (c) Are affected by water quality standards?

yes/no page(s)_____

7.26 Hazardous waste.

Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action are affected by Federal or State guidelines or regulations respecting

- (a) The generation of hazardous waste?
yes/no page(s)_____
- (b) The transportation of hazardous waste?
yes/no page(s)_____
- (c) The treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous waste?
yes/no page(s)_____

7.27 Solid waste.

Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action are affected by Federal or state guidelines or regulations respecting

- (a) The procurement of recycled or recyclable products?
yes/no page(s)_____
- (b) The source separation and recycling of recyclable products?
yes/no page(s)_____
- (c) Solid waste storage?
yes/no page(s)_____
- (d) Solid waste transport?
yes/no page(s)_____
- (e) Solid waste disposal?
yes/no page(s)_____

7.28 Drinking water.

Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action

- (a) Are affected by the National Interim Primary Drinking Water Regulations (EPA or a State which has assumed primacy)?
yes/no page(s)_____
- (b) Are affected by the National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations (EPA or a State which has assumed primacy)?
yes/no page(s)_____

(c) Affect a sole-source aquifer?
yes/no page(s)_____

7.29 Noise.

Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action are affected by noise standards?

yes/no page(s)_____

7.30 Pesticides.

Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action

(a) Are affected by regulations on the storage and disposal of pesticides and pesticide containers?

yes/no page(s)_____

(b) Are affected by regulations on the purchase and use of pesticides?

yes/no page(s)_____

7.31 PCBs.

Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action are affected by EPA regulations on the use, marking, transport, and disposal of PCBs?

yes/no page(s)_____

7.32 Energy conservation at Federal facilities.

Does this section of the EIS state whether the alternatives including the proposed action include:

(a) The operation, maintenance, or retrofit of an existing Federal building?

yes/no page(s)_____

(b) The construction or lease of a new Federal building?

yes/no page(s)_____

(c) Federal agency operations other than building operations?
yes/no page(s)_____

This next set of questions in this part derives from section 1508.27 of the CEQ's regulations. The basis for these questions is 1502.16(a) and (b), which require that this section of an EIS include discussions of environmental effects "and their significance."

7.33 **Context.**

Are the alternatives including the proposed action analyzed

- (a) In several contexts, such as society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality?
1508.27(a)

yes/no page(s)_____

7.35 **Intensity.**

Are the alternatives including the proposed action analyzed:

- (a) For (i) beneficial and (ii) adverse impacts? 1508.27(b)(1)
yes/no page(s)_____

- (b) For effects on public safety? 1508.27(b)(2)

yes/no page(s)_____

- (c) For the degree to which the action may adversely affect significant scientific resources? 1508.27(b)(8)

yes/no page(s)_____

7.36 **Intensity.**

Does this section of the EIS state whether:

- (a) The effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial? 1508.27(b)(4)

yes/no page(s)_____

- (b) The possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks?
1508.27(b)(5)

yes/no page(s)_____

- (c) The action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration? 1508.27(b)(6)

yes/no page(s)_____

- (d) The action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts)? 1508.27(b)(7)

yes/no page(s)_____

8. List of preparers

8.1 Does this section of the EIS list (i) the names and (ii) the qualifications (expertise, experience, professional discipline) of persons who were primarily responsible for preparation of (a) The EIS? 1502.17
yes/no page(s)_____

(b) Significant background papers? 1507.17

yes/no page(s)_____

(c) A particular analysis (including analysis in background papers)?

yes/no page(s)_____

8.2 Does this section of the EIS indicate that the agency employed editors (or writers of clear prose) to write, review, or edit the EIS? 1502.8

yes/no page(s)_____

8.3 Is this section of the EIS two pages or less? 1502.17

yes/no page(s)_____

9. List of agencies, organizations, and persons to whom copies of the statement are sent.

9.1 Does this section of the EIS show that the statement will be circulated to;

(a) Any Federal agency which has jurisdiction by law (1508.15) with respect to any environmental impact involved?

yes/no page(s)_____

(b) Any Federal agency which has special expertise (1508.26) with respect to any environmental impact involved? 1502.19(a); NEPA 102(2)(C)

yes/no page(s)_____

(c) Any appropriate Federal, State, or local agency authorized to develop and enforce environmental standards? 1502.19(a); NEPA 102(2)(C)

yes/no page(s)_____

(d) The applicant (defined as private applicants sponsoring a proposal), if any? 1502.19(b)

yes/no page(s)_____

(e) Any person, organization, or agency requesting the statement? 1502.19(c)

yes/no page(s)_____

(f) In the case of a final EIS, any person, organization, or agency which submitted substantive comments on the draft? 1502.19(d)

yes/no page(s)_____

9.2 Does this section of the EIS show that the entire draft and final EIS is being circulated except for (i) certain appendices, 1502.18(d); (ii) unchanged statements, 1503.4(c); and (iii) unusually long statements, 1500.4(h)? 1502.19

yes/no page(s)_____

10. Index. (Note: A standard index based on the CEQ regulations and the Checklist of 16 is being prepared. As a rule, the Index should contain all key words used on the statement, such as "coastal zones, endangered species, floodplains, National Register of Historic Places, noise, Section 404 permit, etc.")

11. Appendix (if any)

11.1 If there is an appendix, does it consist of material prepared in connection with the EIS (as distinct from material which is not so prepared and which is incorporated by reference)? 1502.18(a)

yes/no page(s)_____

11.2 If there is an appendix,

(a) Does it substantiate any analysis fundamental to the EIS? 1502.18(b)

yes/no page(s)_____

(b) Is it (i) analytic and (ii) relevant to the decision to be made? 1502.18(c)

yes/no page(s)_____

11.3 If there is an appendix, is it either (i) circulated with the EIS or (ii) readily available on request? 1502.18(d)

yes/no page(s)_____

PART C. SUBJECTIVE EIS STANDARDS

1. Is the EIS

- (a) Concise, clear and to the point? 1502.1; 1502.2(c);
1500.2(b)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (b) Supported by evidence that the agency has made the
necessary environmental analyses? 1502.1; 1500.2(b)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (c) Analytic rather than encyclopedic? 1502.2(a); 1500.4(b)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (d) Written in plain language (using appropriate graphics) so
that decisionmakers and the public can readily understand
it? 1502.8; 1500.4(d)
yes/no page(s)_____

2. Does the EIS

- (a) Provide a full and fair discussion of significant
environmental impacts? 1502.1
yes/no page(s)_____
- (b) Inform decisionmakers and the public of the reasonable
alternatives which would avoid or minimize adverse impacts
or enhance the quality of the human environment? 1502.1;
1500.2(e)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (c) Discuss impacts in proportion to their significance and
only briefly discuss other than significant issues?
1502.2(b); 1500.1(b); 1500.4(c); 1501.1(d); 1501.7(a)(2)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (d) Encompass the range of alternatives considered by the
ultimate agency decisionmaker? 1502.2(e); 1505.1(e)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (e) Serve as a means of assessing the environmental impact of
proposed agency actions rather than justifying decisions
already made? 1502.2(g); 1502.5; 1500.1(c)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (f) Emphasize portions that are useful to decisionmakers and
the public and reduce emphasis on background material?
1500.4(f)
yes/no page(s)_____
- (g) Identify environmental effects and values in adequate

detail so they can be compared to economic and technical analyses? 1501.2(b)

yes/no page(s)_____

- (h) Serve as an action-forcing device to ensure that the policies and goals defined in NEPA are infused into the ongoing programs and actions of the agency? 1502.1

yes/no page(s)_____

PART D. QUESTIONS RELATING TO DRAFT AND FINAL EISs

1. Draft EIS. This part applies only to draft EISs, revised draft EISs and EIS draft supplements. If the document being reviewed is a final EIS or EIS final supplement, skip this part and go on to part 2 below.

- 1.1 Does the draft EIS state whether the agency has a preferred alternative or alternatives? 1502.14(e)

yes/no page(s)_____

- 1.2 If the agency has a preferred alternative or alternatives, does the draft EIS identify such alternative(s)? 1502.14(e)

yes/no page(s)_____

- 1.3 Does the draft EIS list all Federal permits, licenses and other entitlements which must be obtained in implementing the proposal, such as

- (a) Section 10 (navigable water crossing) permits?

yes/no page(s)_____

- (b) Section 404 (dredge and fill) permits?

yes/no page(s)_____

- (c) Federal land (right-of-way) permits?

yes/no page(s)_____

- (d) Archaeological Resources Protection Act (Antiquities Act) permits?

yes/no page(s)_____

- (e) Others? 1502.25(b)

yes/no page(s)_____

- 1.4 If it is uncertain whether a Federal permit, license or other entitlement is necessary, does the draft EIS so

indicate? 1502.25(b)

yes/no page(s)_____

1.5 Subjective standards. Does the draft EIS

(a) Fulfill and satisfy to the fullest extent possible the requirements established for final EISs in section 102(2)(C) of NEPA? 1502.9(a)

yes/no page(s)_____

(b) Disclose and discuss at appropriate points all major points of view on the environmental impacts of the alternatives including the proposed action?

1502.9(a)

yes/no page(s)_____

1.6 Subjective standards. Is the draft EIS

(a) Prepared in accordance with the scope decided upon in the scoping process? 1502.9(a)

yes/no page(s)_____

(b) To the fullest extent possible prepared concurrently with and integrated with environmental impact analyses and related surveys and studies required by the NHPA, ESA, and other environmental review laws and executive orders? 1502.25(b)

yes/no page(s)_____

(c) So inadequate as to preclude meaningful analysis? 1502.9(a)

yes/no page(s)_____

2. Final EISs.

This part applies only to final EISs and EIS final supplements.

2.1 Is the text of the final EIS less than 150 pages (less than 300 pages for proposals of unusual scope or complexity)? 1502.7

yes/no page(s)_____

2.2 Does the final EIS state whether the agency has a preferred alternative or alternatives? 1502.14(e)

yes/no page(s)_____

2.3 If the agency has a preferred alternative or alternatives, does the final EIS identify such alternative(s)? 1502.14(e)

yes/no page(s)_____

- 2.4 An agency must respond in the final EIS to comments received on the draft EIS. 1502.9(b). Does the final EIS
- (a) Discuss at appropriate points any responsible opposing view which was not adequately discussed in the draft EIS and indicate the agency's response to the issues raised? 1502.9(b)
- yes/no page(s)_____
- (b) Assess and consider comments both individually and collectively? 1503.4(a)
- yes/no page(s)_____
- (c) Have attached to it all substantive comments (or summaries thereof if the comments have been exceptionally voluminous), received on the draft EIS whether or not the comment is thought to merit individual discussion by the agency in the text of the EIS? 1503.4(b)
- yes/no page(s)_____
- (d) Have responses stated by one or more of these possible means: (1) modify alternatives; (2) develop alternatives not previously given serious consideration; (3) supplement, improve, or modify the analyses; (4) make factual corrections; and (5) explain why no further response is warranted? 1503.4(a)
- yes/no page(s)_____
- 2.5 Does the final EIS indicate that it is being circulated to any person, organization, or agency which submitted substantive comments on the draft? 1502.19(d)
- yes/no page(s)_____
- 2.6 If a comment does not warrant further agency response
- (a) Did the agency attach errata sheets to the draft EIS rather than rewrite the draft EIS? 1503.4(c); 1500.4(m)
- yes/no page(s)_____
- (b) Are the comments, the responses, and the changes circulated rather than the entire final EIS? 1503.4(c); 1500.4(m)
- yes/no page(s)_____
- (c) Is the entire document with a new cover sheet filed as a final EIS? 1503.4(c)
- yes/no page(s)_____

END



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1201

DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-3233

CHECKLIST FOR THE CONTENTS OF A
RECORD OF DECISION (ROD)

Record of Decision title: _____

Final EIS Title (if different from above ROD title): _____

Reviewer: _____

COMDATE: _____ Date Received: _____

Date of Final EIS: _____ Date of ROD: _____

DECISION

1. Does the ROD state what the decision was? 1505.2(a)
yes/no page(s) _____
2. Does the ROD identify all alternatives considered in reaching
the decision? 1505.2(b)
yes/no page(s) _____
3. Does the ROD specify which alternative or alternatives were
considered to be environmentally preferable, and why? 1505.2(b)
yes/no page(s) _____
4. Does the ROD (i) identify and (ii) discuss all relevant factors
including any essential considerations of national policy which
were balanced by the agency in making its decision? 1505.2(b)
yes/no page(s) _____
5. Does the ROD state how those factors identified and discussed
in question 4 entered into the decision? 1505.2(b)
yes/no page(s) _____
6. If the chosen alternative was not an environmentally preferable
alternative, does the ROD state why an environmentally
preferable alternative was not chosen? 1505.2(b); 1500.2(f)
yes/no page(s) _____

MITIGATION

7. Does the ROD state whether all practicable means to avoid or
minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected have
been adopted?
yes/no page(s) _____

8. Does the ROD identify all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm for the alternative selected which were identified in the EIS but which were not adopted?
1505.2(c)

yes/no page(s) _____

9. Does the ROD state the reasons why the mitigation measures identified in question 8 were not adopted? 1505.2(c)

yes/no page(s) _____

MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

10. Does the ROD state whether a monitoring and enforcement program is applicable for any mitigation? 1505.2(c)

yes/no page(s) _____

11. Does the ROD state whether any applicable monitoring and enforcement program has been adopted? 1505.2(c)

yes/no page(s) _____

12. Does the ROD summarize monitoring and enforcement programs which have been adopted? 1505.2(c)

yes/no page(s) _____

MISCELLANEOUS

13. Is the ROD concise? 1505.2

yes/no page(s) _____

14. Does the ROD state on its face how it will be made publicly available? 1505.2

yes/no page(s) _____

15. Does the ROD state on its face that no decision has been made until the later of the following dates: (1) ninety (90) days after publication of the notice for a draft EIS; (2) thirty (30) days after publication of the notice for a final EIS?
1506.10(b)

yes/no page(s) _____

16. (a) **Heritage conservation.** If the decision is or includes taking an action which would adversely affect a property on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, does the ROD state that (1) that a memorandum of agreement has been prepared between (i) the federal agency, (ii) the State Historic Preservation Officer and (iii) the Executive Director of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and (2) that the terms of the memorandum of agreement will be carried out?

36 CFR 800.4(e) and 800.6(c)(3)

yes/no page(s) _____

(b) **State and local plans and programs.** If any of the alternatives include taking an action which is direct Federal development and/or federal assistance, does the ROD explain (1) how State and local agencies will be notified of actions taken (implementing, timing, postponement, abandonment, etc.), and (2) any actions taken contrary to State and local agency recommendations?

yes/no page(s) _____

(c) **Coastal zones.** If the decision is or includes taking an action which (1) is a development project in the coastal zone, (2) directly affects the coastal zone, (3) is listed in an approved coastal management program as requiring a consistency determination, (4) has been monitored by a State as requiring a consistency determination, (5) is the same as or similar to actions for which a consistency determination has been prepared in the past, or (6) has been subject to a thorough consistency assessment, does the ROD state that State coastal management agencies have been provided with consistency information at least 90 days prior to the date of the decision, or that both the Federal agency and the State agency have agreed to an alternative period? 15 CFR 930.34(b) and 930.41(c)

yes/no page(s) _____

(d) **Floodplains.** If the decision is or includes taking an action in a floodplain, does the ROD include (1) an explanation of why "the policies set forth in [the floodplains Executive Order] requires siting in a floodplain", and (2) statement that the action is designed or modified "to minimize potential harm to or within the floodplain" (consistent with agencies implementing procedures)? Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, Section 2(a)(2) (42 FR 26951, May 25, 1977)

yes/no page(s) _____

(e) **Wetlands.** If the decision is or includes undertaking or providing assistance for new construction located in wetlands, does the ROD include a finding "(1) that there is no practicable alternative to such construction, and (2) that the proposed action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands which may result from such use" (taking into account economic, environmental and other pertinent factors)? Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, Section 2(a) (42 FR 26961, May 25, 1977)

yes/no page(s) _____

(f) **Farmlands.** If the decision is or includes taking an action which converts prime or unique farmlands to other uses, does the ROD include a finding that there was no practicable alternative to such conversion (taking into account economic, environmental and other pertinent factors such as agency mission)? NEPA Section 101(b)(4); Council on Environmental Quality, Memorandum for Heads of Agencies, August 11, 1980 (45 FR 59189, September 8, 1980

yes/no page(s) _____

END

